

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown directly below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using a ~~subterranean treatment~~ drilling fluid in a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:

providing a ~~subterranean treatment~~ drilling fluid comprising substantially hydrated cement particulates; and

placing the ~~subterranean treatment~~ drilling fluid into a subterranean formation.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise an admixture.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates are formed by providing a settable composition comprising a hydraulic cementitious material, and water; allowing the settable composition to set into a substantially hydrated mass; and comminuting the substantially hydrated mass into smaller particles so as to form the substantially hydrated cement particulates.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the hydraulic cementitious material ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, ~~or a~~ and mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the settable composition further comprises an admixture so that the substantially hydrated cement particulate comprises an admixture.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the admixture is present in the settable composition in an admixture-to-hydraulic cementitious material weight ratio in the range of from about 5:95 to about 95:5.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with another admixture.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with ~~another~~ an admixture.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates have an average particle diameter in the range of from about 5 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrated cement particulates are ~~used as~~ a lost circulation material or a density-varying additive.

12.-70. (Cancelled)

71. (New) A drilling fluid comprising substantially hydrated cement particulates.

72. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 71 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise an admixture.

73. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 71 further comprising forming the substantially hydrated cement particulates

74. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 73 wherein forming the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprises: providing a settable composition comprising a hydraulic cementitious material, and water; allowing the settable composition to set into a substantially hydrated mass; and comminuting the substantially hydrated mass into smaller particles so as to form the substantially hydrated cement particulates.

75. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein the hydraulic cementitious material is selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, and mixtures thereof.

76. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 74 wherein the settable composition further comprises an admixture so that the substantially hydrated cement particulate comprises an admixture.

77. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 76 wherein the admixture is present in the settable composition in an admixture-to-hydraulic cementitious material weight ratio in the range of from about 5:95 to about 95:5.

78. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 76 further comprising the step of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with another admixture.

79. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 74 further comprising the step of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with an admixture.

80. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 71 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates have an average particle diameter in the range of from about 5 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

81. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 71 wherein the hydrated cement particulates are a lost circulation material or a density-varying additive.

82. (New) The drilling fluid of claim 71 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise a hydraulic cementitious material selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, and mixtures thereof.

83. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise a hydraulic cementitious material selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, and mixtures thereof.